樋口大輔

At long last, this is the year of the World Cup.
When I started the series, my first editor and I half-jokingly said to each other how incredible it would be if we could keep it going until the next World Cup. But who'd have thought the day would actually come?
This is all thanks to your support.
Even though the series has been around almost four years now, the manga is still far from satisfactory. But please continue to cheer me on. ♥
With a renewed frame of mind, I'll strive to do my best... sort of.

– Daisuke Higuchi

Daisuke Higuchi's manga career began in 1992 when the artist was honored with third prize in the 43rd Osamu Tezuka Award. In that same year, Higuchi debuted as creator of a romantic action story titled **Itaru**. In 1998, **Weekly Shonen Jump** began serializing **Whistle!** Higuchi's realistic soccer manga became an instant hit with readers and eventually inspired an anime series, debuting on Japanese TV in May of 2002.

**WHISTLE!**
VOL. 20: GO ON TOGETHER

**The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition**

STORY AND ART BY
DAISUKE HIGUCHI

English Adaptation/Heidi Alayne
Translation/Naomi Kokubo
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Jim Keefe
Design/Matt Hinrichs
Editor/Jonathan Tarbox

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra
Sr. VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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# Vol. 20

## GO ON TOGETHER

Story and Art by

**Daisuke Higuchi**

# CHARACTERS

**SHŌ KAZAMATSURI**

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM FORWARD

**AKIRA SAIONJI**

**TSUBASA SHIINA**

**TATSUYA MIZUNO**

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM MIDFIELDER

**KOTARŌ ABE**

TOHOKU SELECT TEAM

RIGHT WING

**MITSUHIRO HINASE**

TOHOKU SELECT TEAM

LEFT WING

**TOSHIKI SUGAMA**

KANTO SELECT TEAM

VOLENTE

## STORY

TO REALIZE HIS DREAM, SHŌ KAZAMATSURI, A BENCHWARMER AT SOCCER POWERHOUSE MUSASHINOMORI, TRANSFERRED TO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SO HE COULD PLAY THE GAME HE LOVES.

SHŌ'S IMPRESSIVE PLAY FOR JOSUI EVENTUALLY LED TO A SUBSTITUTE POSITION ON THE WORLD-TRAVELING TOKYO SELECT TEAM.

AFTER A CHALLENGING INVITATIONAL MATCH AGAINST THE SEOUL SELECT TEAM IN KOREA, THE TOKYO SELECT TEAM JOINED THE NATIONAL TORESEN--A TRAINING EVENT THAT GATHERS THE BEST PLAYERS FROM EACH DISTRICT FOR A SKILL-SHARPENING COMPETITION.

WHEN HE ARRIVES, SHŌ IS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THAT HIS OLD JOSUI TEAMMATE, SHIGEKI, IS NOW PLAYING FOR THE KANSAI SELECT TEAM.

AND NOW, THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS...

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# STAGE.173 King-Size Rival

WHO'S THAT GUY?
SHIGEKI FUJIMURA OF KANSAI SELECT?
THE FLASHY ONE?
APPARENTLY, HE'S NOT EVEN FROM THE KANSAI DISTRICT. HE ONLY GOT IN ON A TORESEN COACH'S RECOMMENDATION.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE'S HE BEEN HIDING UNTIL NOW? HE'S PRETTY GOOD.

MURMUR
UNLIKE MOST OF THESE BRATS, HE'S GOT SOME BACK-BONE.
YIKES!
HE TALKS THAT WAY TO A COACH?
PUT A SOCK IN IT!
YER GETTING OLD, MAN!
REFLEXES AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE?
WHOA! A GIANT!
YOU GOTTA RESPECT THE RULES, DUDE.
HEY, HEY! YOU HAD YOUR TURN.
MY HELLISH CHAIN OF DEFENSE ...
A LUCKY SHOT! COME TRY AGAIN, BLONDIE!
NEXT UP!
WAIT! I CAN STILL BEAT HIM!

"I'M MUCH BETTER THAN YOU."
"PUPPY."
ANSAI

I'VE HEARD THOSE WORDS... THEM BEFORE...
AH!
YOU'RE NOT SUITED TO BEING AN FW.
BACK THEN ...
I'M MUCH BETTER THAN YOU.
I WON'T LOSE!
I'LL GO!
NEXT!
HEY!
IT'S NOT YOUR TURN!
KANSAI

OKAY, YOU'RE UP!
I WILL BREAK THROUGH!
IF SHIGEKI BROKE THROUGH, I WILL TOO!
YES!
WHAT A SUCK-UP.
THAT GUY'S IRRI-TAT-ING.
PLEASE, SIR!
THE BATTLE'S ALREADY BEGUN.
ZOOP
PASSIVE-Y WAITING WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE, GUYS.
ACK!

BOTH THE DEFENDERS ARE TALL.
ESPECIALLY COACH MATSUSHITA.
THAT MEANS THEIR REACH IS A LOT LONGER THAN MINE.
adidas
AND SINCE THE COACH IS FAMILIAR WITH MY TECHNIQUE, I CAN'T USE MY REGULAR TACTICS.
I HAVE TO OUTSMART THE COACH.
AND THE REST...

DASH
...DEPENDS ON SPEED!
T-OOM
WHAT?
HE RAN IN BETWEEN ...
...AND CUT THE PASS OFF SHORT?!

NOW!
SHOOT
SO THAT'S YOUR MOVE.
BOOM
HE DODGED 'EM!
DASH
NOT BAD!
HE SENT THE BALL INTO THE SPACE THAT OPENED UP WHEN THE DEFENDER MOVED IN!

FOO
KANTO
BUT EVEN IF HE DODGED ONE DEFENDER ...
...THE SECOND ONE IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!
SH
ZOO
OM
HE WON'T BE ABLE DODGE THIS ONE!
SHAKE THAT MIDGET OFF, CAPTAIN!

HE ACCEL-ERATED ?!
THAT'S SO DUMB!
HE'S RUNNING STRAIGHT INTO THE DEFENDER!
SHOOM

BA
M
SHO
OVER HERE?!
OM
HE DIS-APPEARED!
FW
SH

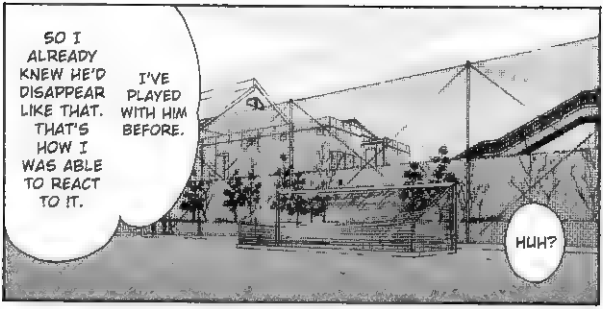
TOO
OH
WHAK

THE MIDGET TRIED REALLY HARD.
BUT HE'S NO MATCH FOR SUGA.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM TOSHIKI SUGAMA OF MARINO YOUTH!
INTER-CEPTED!
SUGA, EH.
PLAYING AGAINST THAT KING-SIZE VOLENTE IS GOING TO BE A REAL PAIN!
THAT'S OUR FIRST OPPONENT.
SUGA FROM KANTO SELECT, HUH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STILL GROWING
HAVE WE MET SOME-WHERE BEFORE?
ER ...
IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR STYLE, I WOULD'VE LET YOU BREAK THROUGH.
WOW... THAT WAS CLOSE!
SHOOP
WHAT, YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?
HOW 'BOUT NOW?
WHAT?

YOU GOT IT! ♡
SUGA FROM THE FUTSAL COURT!
SEE VOLUME 16.
AH!
REMEMBER THE GUY WE MET WHEN WE WENT AROUND TO ALL THE FUTSAL COURTS IN TOKYO? TALL, REALLY TALENTED...
SUGA... WHO?
TEPPEI, THAT'S SUGA!
OH, THAT GUY
HE PLAYED ON OUR TEAM A LOT.
OH, NOW I REMEMBER!
SHŌ KNOWS THAT SUPER-TALL GUY?
I DON'T KNOW IF HE HAS ANY WEAK POINTS WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF. WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
BUT SUGA HAS SUCH GREAT FLEXIBILITY AND BALANCE, HE'S AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
BIG PLAYERS AREN'T USUALLY GOOD AT PRECISE FOOT-WORK.
WE'VE PLAYED WITH HIM A LOT, SO DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE EVENLY MATCHED? ACTUALLY, CONSIDERING HIS CAPABILITIES, WE MIGHT BE AT A DISADVANTAGE.
SO TOSHIKI SUGAMA OF THE KANTO SELECT, OUR OPPONENT, IS OUR OLD FRIEND SUGA.

THEY SAY KANTO SELECT HAS A BETTER DEFENSE THAN US-- TOKYO SELECT.
AND THE KEY TO THAT DEFENSE IS...
...THE KING-SIZE VOLENTE, TOSHIKI SUGAMA.

YOU DIDN'T LET ANYTHING PAST, SUGA. FANTASTIC AS ALWAYS.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
YOU'RE DOING REALLY WELL, TOO, KEISUKE.
AND IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE LITTLE GUY...
THAT WAS A LUCKY COINCI-DENCE.

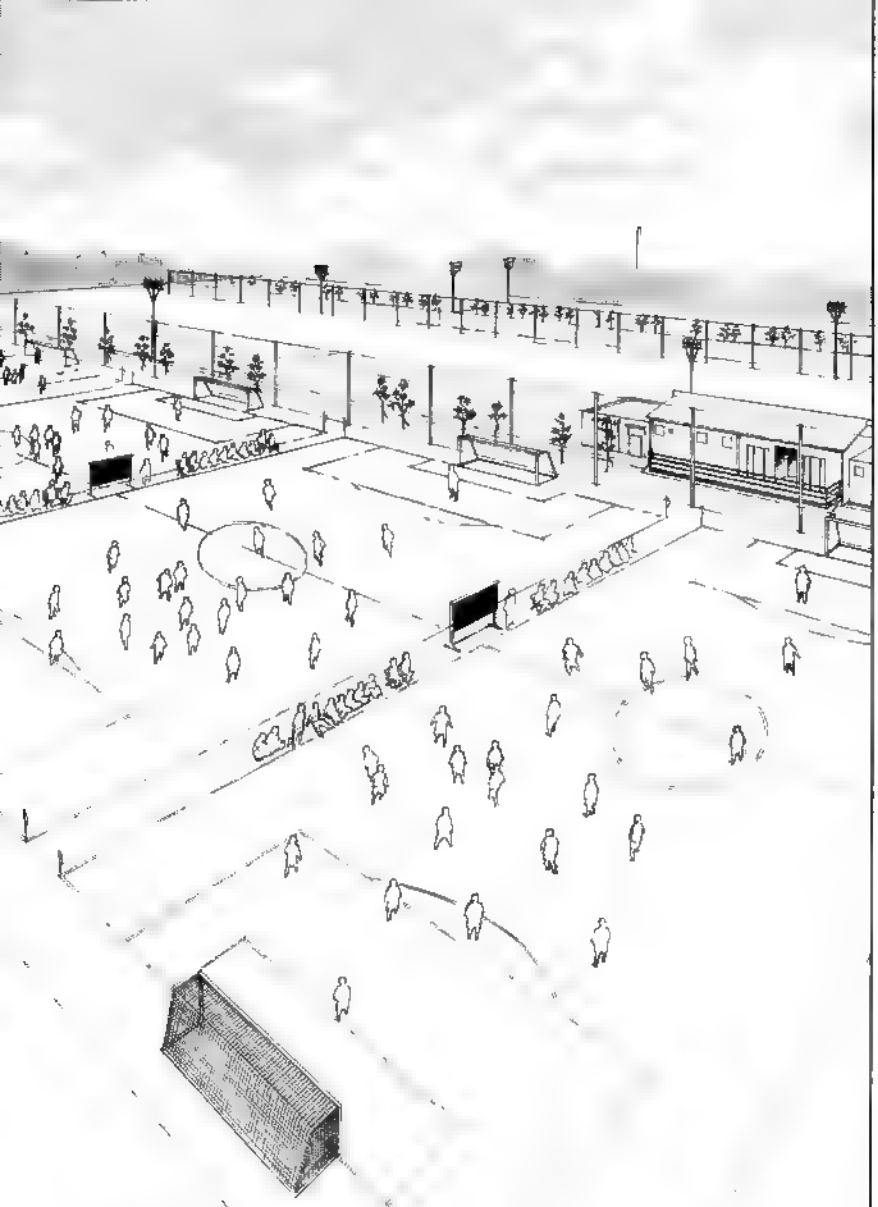

SO I ALREADY KNEW HE'D DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT. THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO REACT TO IT.
I'VE PLAYED WITH HIM BEFORE.
HUH?

DISAPPEAR? DID YOU JUST SAY HE DIS-APPEARED?
WAIT!
...

NO WAY!
KANTO
OTHER-WISE, HE WOULD'VE EVADED ME AND MADE THE GOAL.

WHEN HE FEINTS, HE JUST VANISHES!
GRIN
YOU CAN'T TELL FROM THE SIDE, BUT WHEN YOU FACE HIM, YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN.

WHISTLE!



## STAGE.174
# The Match Against Kanto Select Begins

IT'S A FEINT!
KANTO
POW
HE STOPPED THE SHOT!
THE KEEPER IS MOVING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION...
KANSAI
KANSAI

BUT ...
...HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE!
SNATCH
HE GRABBED IT!

BO-OM
COUNTER-ATTACK!
KANT

KATSURŌ IS REALLY THE NUMBER ONE KEEPER OF OUR GENERATION.
HE HAS GREAT BALL SENSE ...
NO, HE'S NUMBER TWO!
AMAZING REFLEXES!
KATSURŌ IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY REVERSING KANTO'S MASSIVE OFFENSIVE SURGE!
九州
九州

THUD
NUMBER ONE IS ME, KAZU KUNIGI OF KYUSHU SELECT
九州
adidas
KANTO'S STILL CONTROLLING THE BALL.
ZIP
THW
TAKI!
AP

FO
OW
DON'T GIVE HIM THE CENTER SHOT!
GUARD THE FLANK!
KANI

SHOOM
5
SHP
SHP
3
17
GREAT MOVE!
HE CAN'T CENTER THE BALL!
IMPRESSIVE ZONE DEFENSE. THEY PRESSURED HIM RIGHT UP TO THE LINE.
KANTO
KANTO
DANG!

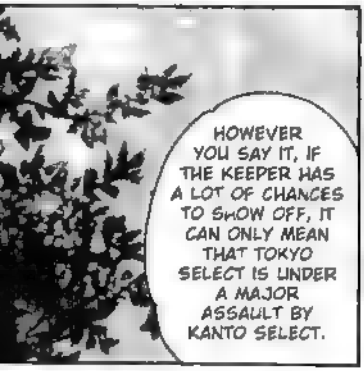
NO!
BAM
KANT
SLAM
HE HAD TO BACK PASS.
SUGA INTERCEPTS! IT'S LIKE HE WAS WAITING FOR IT!
ANTO

COUNTER-
ATTACK!
BOOM

LONG BALL TO THE FRONT!
KANTO
...A FORWARD HAS ALREADY COME UP FROM BEHIND!
RIGHT WHERE ...
HE DROPS IT INTO POSITION ..
KANTO
POW
THUD

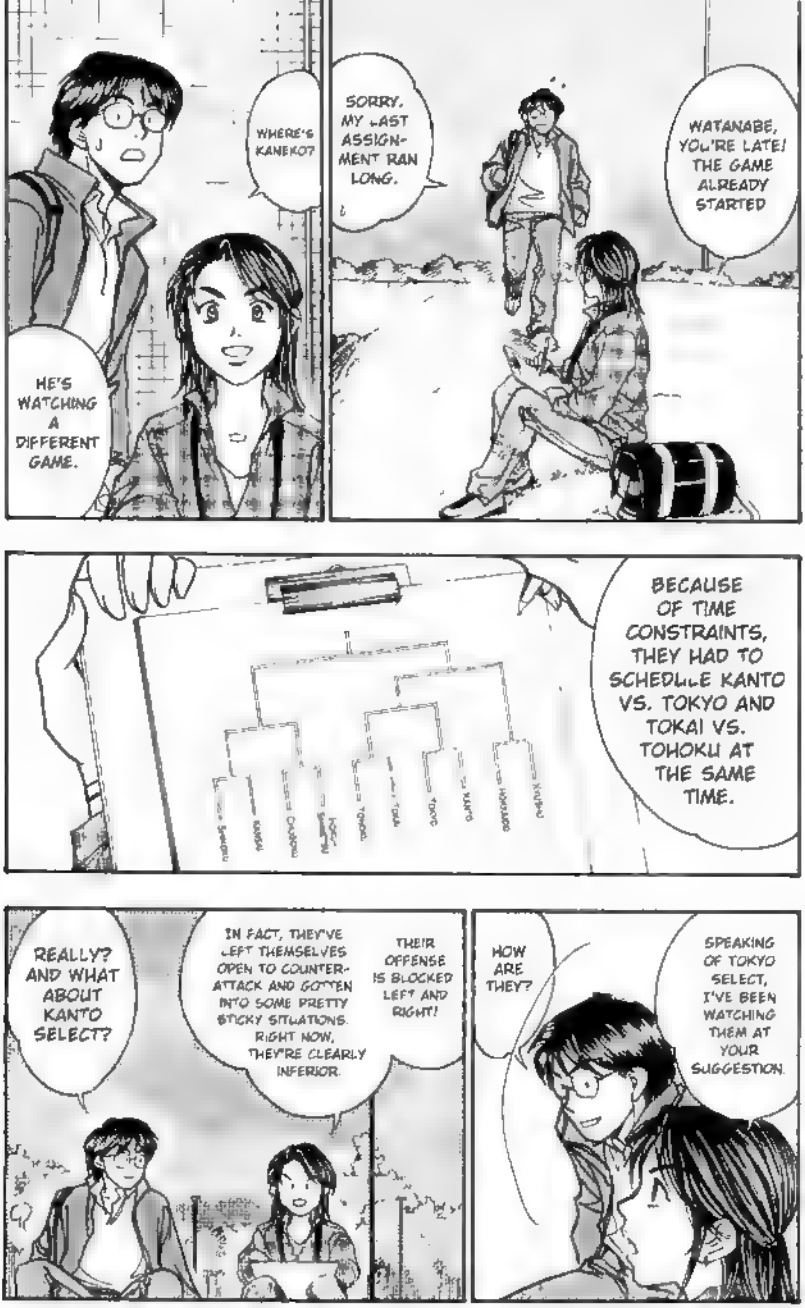
SLAM
HE'S GOT IT!
KA-TSURŌ SECURES THE BALL!
USE YOUR VOICE! VERBAL SIGNALS!
STAY COOL!
WAY TO GO ...

HE COVERS THE GOAL LIKE THERE'S THREE OF HIM! ♡
SUPER KEEPER KATSURŌ SHIBU-SAWA IS PERFORMING WAY BEYOND THE JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL.


HOWEVER YOU SAY IT, IF THE KEEPER HAS A LOT OF CHANCES TO SHOW OFF, IT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT TOKYO SELECT IS UNDER A MAJOR ASSAULT BY KANTO SELECT.

KINDA CHEESY
HMMM
HMMM, OR MAYBE IT'S MORE LIKE HE'S ABLE TO MOVE AROUND FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE. SUPERSONIC? SPEEDY SHIBUSAWA?

HI, CHIKA!
BUT SO FAR, KANTO IS CONTROLLING THE PACE. TOKYO IS THE WEAKER TEAM, PERIOD.
WE'RE 15 MINUTES IN, AND IT'S STILL A NO-SCORE GAME.


WHERE'S KANEKO?
HE'S WATCHING A DIFFERENT GAME.
SORRY. MY LAST ASSIGN-MENT RAN LONG.
WATANABE, YOU'RE LATE! THE GAME ALREADY STARTED
BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS, THEY HAD TO SCHEDULE KANTO VS. TOKYO AND TOKAI VS. TOHOKU AT THE SAME TIME.
REALLY? AND WHAT ABOUT KANTO SELECT?
IN FACT, THEY'VE LEFT THEMSELVES OPEN TO COUNTER-ATTACK AND GOTTEN INTO SOME PRETTY STICKY SITUATIONS. RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE CLEARLY INFERIOR.
THEIR OFFENSE IS BLOCKED LEFT AND RIGHT!
HOW ARE THEY?
SPEAKING OF TOKYO SELECT, I'VE BEEN WATCHING THEM AT YOUR SUGGESTION.

WELL . .
THEY'RE NOT VERY AGGRESSIVE DOWN THE WINGS, BUT WITH THEIR THOROUGH ZONE DEFENSE, THEY CAN WORK THE NUMBERS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.
THEY MOVE IN FAST...
. AND BLOCK ANY PASSING OPPORTUNITIES.
IT'S STANDARD TEXTBOOK STRATEGY.
KANTO
BUT THEIR NUMBER FOUR IS DIRECTING THEM SO WELL, TOKYO CAN'T FIND ANY OPENINGS TO BREAK THROUGH.
AT LEAST NOT YET
NUMBER FOUR IS ALSO THE STARTING POINT FOR THEIR OFFENSE.
UNLESS THIS NUMBER FOUR IS CHECKED SOMEHOW, TOKYO DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE.

UH... HEY...
JUNIOR HIGH BOYS ARE SO MATURE THESE DAYS, AND SO GOOD LOOKING! I CAN'T STAND IT, THEY'RE SOOOOO CUTE! ♡
GOSH, THAT NUMBER FOUR! TOSHIKI SUGAMA REALLY IS SOME-THING! ♡
HUH! SHE'S REALLY GOT A HANDLE ON THIS.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE TOKYO SELECT LINEUP SHEET!
WHAT?
WHAP
YOUR LITTLE SCHOOLBOY FANTASY IS DISTRACTING YOU FROM SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
OUCH.
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT!
THIS STARTING LINEUP IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE THEY USED AGAINST THE KOREAN TEAM.

No.
12 GK Kentarō Kozutsu
2 DF Rokusuke Hata
3 〃 Keisuke Kida
14 〃 Kosuke Naitō
5 MF Shigeru Mamiya
6 〃 Yūto Wakana
8 〃 Eishi Kaku
10 〃 Tatsuya Mizuno
18 〃 Taki Sugihara
9 FW Seiji Fujishiro
11 〃 Takashi Narumi
No. Position Name
1 GK Katsurō Shibusawa
3 DF Keisuke Kida
7 〃 Masaki Kurokawa
13 〃 Seigo Taniguchi
5 MF Shigeru Mamiya
15 〃 Yūichirō Sakuraba
16 MF Hitoyoshi
〃 Atsushi
18 〃 Taki
9 FW Seiji
11 〃 Takashi

IF TOKYO SELECT REALLY HAS THIS KIND OF DEPTH...
...I HAVE A FEELING THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET CRAZY.

# WHISTLE!

NUMBER FOUR INTERCEPTS!
HE DESTROYED TOKYO'S OFFENSE AGAIN!
KANTO'S ZONE DEFENSE IS INCREDIBLE!
STAGE.175 The Secret Strategy to Conquer Kanto
IT'S ALL FALLING INTO PLACE
GLANCE
ESPECIALLY NUMBER FOUR. HE'S CALLING THE SHOTS!
KANTO SELECT IS SUPERIOR ON DEFENSE
THE KANTO SELECT COACH. HIDEO ŌISHI

# STAGE.175 The Secret Strategy to Conquer Kanto

I'VE GOT THE CREAM OF THE CROP--MY VERY OWN KANTO SELECT!
BWA HA HA HA!
WE'VE GOT SIX WHOLE PREFECTURES TO PULL FROM!
POPULATION DENSITY IS THE ONLY REASON TOKYO EVEN HAS ITS OWN TEAM. IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A SUBSIDIARY OF THE KANTO REGION!
AKIRA SAIONJI... HOW WELL CAN A WOMAN COACH A SOCCER TEAM, ANYWAY?

SMILE
TWITCH
Kanto
Tokyo
FEMALE HEAD COACH-- SHE'S THE BEST!
WOBBLE
SO LOVELY. ♡
CREEPY
KANTO
Team
First Half
Second Half
Kanto 0
Tokyo 0

UPPIE'D POSITION
PRESSURING FROM THE FRONT LINE...
AND BLOCK!
LIMITING THE PASS LINE.
FOOM
UP

WHEN THEIR OPPONENT COMES UP CLOSE ON OFFENSE...
URK...
THEY'RE GOING FOR IT!
THEY SLOW THEIR OPPONENT DOWN...
IF THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BACKUP...
5
5
..AND STEAL!
..UNTIL THEIR TEAMMATES CATCH UP...
SURROUND
KANTO

SHOOT!
THEY DRIVE THEIR OPPONENT ....
...TO THE SIDE-LINE...
...AND STEAL!
BUT WE'RE ATTACKING SO HARD!
DANG IT!

I'M BEAT!
IT'S LIKE DOING THE 100-METER DASH OVER AND OVER.
EVEN WHEN WE'RE IN THE OFFENSIVE ZONE, THEY SHUT US DOWN AND COUNTER-ATTACK!
EVERY TIME THEY'RE ON THE OFFENSIVE, THE BALL GOES TO...
SUGA!

YOU GUYS TIRED?
Team
Kanto 0
Tokyo 0
NO WAY!
EVEN IF THEY DON'T REALIZE IT.
KANTO'S TIRED, TOO.
YOU'RE MAKING US LOOK BAD.
KNOCK IT OFF, MASAKI!
WELL, MAYBE I AM A BIT TIRED.

THEY SHUT DOWN OUR OFFENSIVE STRIKES AND LAUNCHED COUNTERATTACKS AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT IT NEVER LED TO A GOAL.
EVEN THOUGH THE GAME IS GOING THEIR WAY, THEY CAN'T FOLLOW THROUGH. SO THEY'LL START TO GET ANXIOUS.
BUT WE CAN'T WAIT AROUND FOR THAT.
THIS IS THE DECISIVE MOMENT!
LET'S STEP IT UP IN THE SECOND HALF
WHAT STRATEGY WOULD WORK AGAINST KANTO'S SYSTEMATIC DEFENSE?
THEIR NUMBER FOUR!
TOSHIKI SUGAMA, THE VOLENTE.
HE IS THE PIVOT OF THEIR DEFENSE AND THE STARTING POINT OF THEIR OFFENSE
IF WE SEAL OFF NUMBER FOUR, WE'LL HAVE THE CHANCE FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK!

LET'S SHOW THEM THAT THEY CAN'T WIN A SOCCER GAME WITHOUT SCORING.
CORRECT.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
EVERY-THING'S GOING WEL...

WE MAY BE CONTROL-LING THE BALL.
RIGHT!
CLAP
CLAP
WE'RE CONTROLLING THE GAME! IT'S IN THE BAG!
...BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T SCORED A POINT.
KANTO
KANTO
KANTO

OKAY!
LET'S GO!
TWEEE!
WHAT'S UP?
HUH?
KANTO CUTS OFF THE PASS AGAIN!
BAM

KANTO
THAT LITTLE KID...
THEY CHANGED THE R LINEUP.
THE FORMATION ON THE TOKYO SIDE LOOKS DIFFERENT.
NUMBER NINETEEN ...
Atsushi
Taki Sugihara
Shō Kazamatsuri
Kazuma San
Teppei Koiwa
16
17
18
19 FW
20
MF
Kuro
Kaku
Fujishiro
...IS A FORWARD.
SUGAI
10

SHO
KANTO
OH
WHAT ?!

NO WAY!
TWO MARKS ON SUGA ?!
GRIP
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS GUY?

TUP
PASS TO SUGA INTER-CEPTED!
BOOM
NUMBER EIGHTEEN ...
DODGES AND...
SP
IN
... DRIBBLES !

TOKYO SELECT IS IN SUPER OFFENSIVE MODE!
THREE OF THEM ARE RUNNING UP TO THE FRONT LINE!
KANTO IS IN A BIND!
OFF-SIDE TRAP!
13
THREE-MAN OFFEN-SIVE STRIKE!
HERE COMES PUPPY!

NO, WAIT!
HE'S AIMING STRAIGHT FOR THE NET!
POW
A DIRECT SHOT ON GOAL?!
FOOM
NUMBER EIGHTEEN MAKES THE CROSSING PASS...

WHISTLE!

# STAGE.176 Super Offensive Formation

WHILE WE WERE ALL FOCUSING ON THE THREE GUYS RUNNING UP THE FIELD, THEY STRUCK AT THE UNGUARDED POINT
YOU ALMOST HAD IT!
IT WAS JUST BARELY TOO HIGH!
SO CLOSE!
DON'T LET THEM GET THE BALL!
IF THEY'VE GOT TWO MARKS ON SUGA, THAT MEANS THERE'S FEWER OF THEM IN THE FIELD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IF YOU'RE GOING IN TO COVER SOMEONE, SHOUT IT OUT!
CLOSE IN FAST, GUYS!
CLAP
CLAP
FOOM
AAAH!

DROPPED WITH A HEADER.
BAM
GOAL KICK!
OH, NO!
KANTO
GLANCE
KANTO'S NUMBER EIGHT WINS THE BALL.
KANTO
SUGA?
TUP
TOO SLOW.

KANTO
SKI
D
D
...WE WOULD JUST SIT AROUND AND LET YOU BEAT UP ON US ALL DAY?
DO YOU REALLY THINK...
ACK!

ZONE DEFENSE IS SO ANNOY-ING!
SHOOT!
3
GOT IT!
BUT TOKYO REGAINS CONTROL OF THE INTERCEPTED BALL!
HEY, SEIGO ...
GOT SOMETHING TO PROVE BECAUSE YOU WERE LEFT OUT OF THE KOREAN MATCH?
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE N THE SAME BOAT!
KANTO
ZOOM

HE'S GONNA DRIBBLE!
HEH.
TIME FOR A FAKE OUT!
IT'S A PASS!
SIC!
TAKI!
BAM
IF YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT, THEN FIGHT WITH YOUR STRENGTHS!
YOU STINK AT PASSING!
KANTO
SWAP
OOPS!

BAM
IT'S A STRUGGLE FOR THE BALL IN THE MIDFIELD!
INTER-CEPTED AGAIN!
THE FRUSTRATION OF SITTING ON THE SIDELINES...

...I'M LETTING IT ALL OUT RIGHT NOW!
GO!
IT'S A CROSS PASS TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE!

NICE CROSS, MY MAN! ♡
NUMBER NINE BREAKS FREE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP THE BALL!
IT'S A PERFECT VOLLEY!
BOOM
GOT IT!

SHA
GK
DEFLECTED BY THE KEEPER! NICE SAVE!
AND THE DEFENDER CLEARS IT!
BAM
I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D BE ABLE TO PULL IT OUT, BUT I GUESS THE TOKYO SELECT TEAM IS PRETTY GOOD AFTER ALL.
NOW THAT THEY'VE STYMIED NUMBER FOUR, THEY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT A COUNTERATTACK. THEY CAN GO ALL-OUT ON OFFENSE.
YEAH. THE SIDE BACKS HAVE MOVED UP THE FIELD, TOO.
EVEN THOUGH KANTO IS STILL WORKING THE ZONE DEFENSE, DON'T YOU THINK TOKYO IS FINALLY CATCHING THEIR STRIDE?

THEIR ZONE DEFENSE IS BEGINNING TO BREAK DOWN.
TOKYO IS PUSHING HARD, AND KANTO ONLY HAS NUMBER FOUR LEFT IN THE FRONT LINE.
DASH
NUMBER FOUR BROKE FREE FROM THE MARK...

200M
WHAT ?!

HUH?
SWAT
TAK!!
EVEN KEISUKE IS IN THE OFFENSIVE ZONE...
WHICH MEANS...
EMPTINESS
YOU GUYS TOTALLY DITCHED ME BACK HERE!
OH MAN!
1

FINE. I'LL DEFEND THE GOAL ALL BY MYSELF!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!
THEY'RE ALL PLAYING OFFENSE.
WHAT'S UP WITH TOKYO?
DON'T LOSE YOUR MARK!
GO TO ONE-ON-ONE!
100M

WHA?
AH!
KANTO
19
TOOM
HEY!
DUMMY!
SHOOM

SWOOSH
OOPS
NOT SO FAST!
THEY MISSED!

DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW, MIDGET!
NUMBER 19 WAS A DECOY ?!

IF IT'S GOTTA BE A HEADER..
IT'S GOTTA BE ME!


WHEN THESE BOYS CATCH THE WAVE, THEY DON'T STOP.
THAT'S THE POWER OF THE C-FORMATION!
ONCE THEY ALL TURN SUPER-OFFENSIVE, ZONE DEFENSE IS TOTALLY USELESS.

WHISTLE!

STAGE.177

# Solitary Talent

OR WAS IT THE TIMING OF MY TAKE-OFF?
I'M PRETTY SURE I JUMPED OUT TOO LATE.
MUTTER MUTTER
NO, IT'S MY FAULT.
SORRY
THANKS, LITTLE BUDDY. ♡
PAT
PAT
NICE ASSIST!
SEIJI ...
TAKASHI SURE IS PROUD OF HIMSELF.
LITTLE BUDDY? HE DOESN'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN

UH, I DON'T NEED ANY THUNDER REAL...!
SHŌ, LET'S STEAL SOME OF HIS THUNDER.
RIGHT BACK AT YA!
KANTO
SHOOM
SKIDDD
BAM

IT JUST DOESN'T STOP.
KANTO
DANG!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T BOTHER DRIB-BLING!
YOU FOOL!
PASS, PASS!
MORE OF THEM SPROUT RIGHT BACK UP.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE CHOP OFF THE BUDS OF THEIR OFFENSE. .
KANTO
SUGA!
POW
KANTO

5
WATCH IT, THEY'RE SENDING THREE MEN UP!
WHOA!
THW
AP

...THE SPACE LEFT OPEN BY KANTO'S RUSHING DEFENDERS!
FWOOO
THE WINGERS ...
...ARE JUMPING INTO THE SPACE...
M
1

IT'S ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE KEEPER!
DEFLECTED!
BAM
WHAP
NICE SAVE!

TUP
15
AMAZING!
TH
adidas
THE KEEPER BLOCKED THE SHOT AGAIN!
WAP

THONK
FOOOM
5

GOOOOAAAAL!
ALL RIGHT! COME ON, COME ON!
NO WAY...
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DEFEND AGAINST THAT?
2-0, TOKYO!
I GUESS IT WAS MY SHOT THIS TIME.
SORRY.
THEY'RE ONLY TWO UP!
WE CAN STILL TURN IT AROUND!
C'MON!

CAPTAIN SUGAMA!
SUGA.
SUGA.
SUGA
KANTO
PLEASE TELL US, SUGA.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
KANTO
THIS IS BAD. WE'RE GONNA LOSE.
...

FOOM
18
BAP
7
SUGA!
KANTO

I'LL MAKE THE SHOT!
THIS TIME ...
LEFT!
SHŌ JUMPS INTO MY BLIND SPOT. THAT'S HOW HE VANISHES.
HE'S CROUCHING DOWN IS HE TRYING TO READ PUPPY'S MOVE?
KANSAI

YES! I GOT...
...HIM...

KANTO

FW
O
O
OSH
4

TWEE
TWEE
TWEE
TWEE
TWEE
HUH?
THREE GOALS FOR A SURE LEAD!
GOAL!
First Half
Second Half
0
0
0
3
KEEP ON GOING!
YEEEAH!

## STAGE.178
# Black Lightning

MRMR
MRMR
ONE OF THE TOP FOUR IS ELIMINATED IN THE FIRST GAME?!
TOKYO SELECT BEAT KANTO THREE-ZIP?!
WHAT AN UPSET!
北信越

WHO CARES ABOUT KANTO! I'M STOKED TO PLAY AGAINST KATSURŌ!
TOKYO SELECT, YOU BETTER MAKE SURE KATSURŌ SAVES HIS ENERGY FOR ME!
Kyushu

THIS IS STARTING TO GET GOOD.
KANSAI
Kansai

WE CLEARED OUR FIRST HURDLE.
3

GOOD GAME!
IT'LL BE A GOOD FIGHT, BUT WE'LL WIN IT.
OUR NEXT OPPONENT WILL MOST LIKELY BE TOKAI.
QUIT TAKING IT SO LIGHTLY
YEAH, IF YOU HAD LOST, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A SINGLE CHANCE TO PLAY!
GRAB
SMACK
YOU HAD TO WIN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, WE WON!
SLAP
WE ACTUALLY HAD SOME SKILLS!
I GUESS THIS IS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO IF I'M TRYING TO CARRY THE TEAM ON MY OWN STEAM.
I REALLY THOUGHT WE COULD DO BETTER.
KANT

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
19

I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU, SHŌ.
HMM ...
I HOPE SOMEDAY WE'LL GET TO PLAY SOCCER TOGETHER, AS TEAM-MATES. ♡
I THOUGHT I KNEW THE EXTENT OF YOUR SKILLS FROM THE FUTSAL COURT.
BUT REAL SOCCER IS DIFFERENT.
YOU'VE GOT SOME MOVES OUT THERE.
YEAH.
BUT I ALSO WANT TO PLAY AGAINST YOU AGAIN!

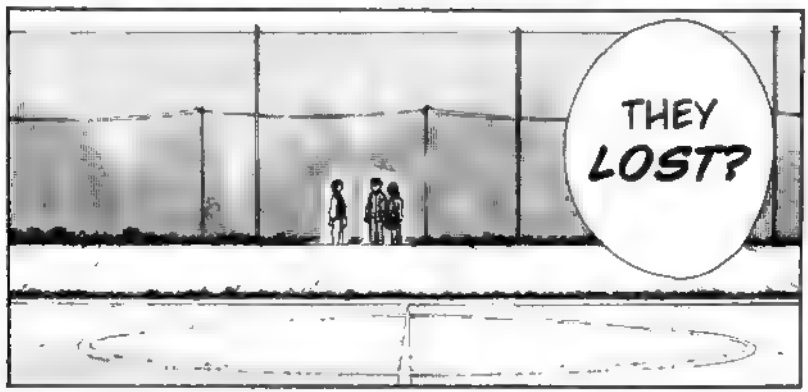
NEXT TIME, I WON'T LOSE.

SORRY, SUGA.
KANTO

WE COULDN'T SEE THE BIG PICTURE THE WAY YOU DID.
WE RELIED ON YOU TOO MUCH.
KANTO
KANTO

READ THIS WAY
SMILE
COME ON, IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
WELL THEN, JUST REMEMBER TO SEE IT NEXT TIME!
KANTO
WATANABE, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
HEY.
KANEKO'S BACK. I GUESS THE OTHER GAME IS OVER, TOO.
GRIP
I'M GOING TO DO COMPLETE COVERAGE ON TOKYO SELECT!!
YOU HAVE FUN WITH THAT

THEY LOST.
IS HE STILL CRUSHING THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF OVER-CONFIDENT YOUNG PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE NATION?
ACTUALLY...
HOW DID KEISUKE DO, YAMAGUCHI?


THEY LOST?

STARE
HA HA!
IS THAT A BIRTH-MARK, BABY SHŌ?
YOU SHOULD USE AN ICE PACK.
MY BIRTHMARK FADED A LONG TIME AGO!
THAT HIP YOU BONKED IS REALLY BRUISED UP.

TOKAI. WELL, OFFICIALLY IT'S THE WINNER BETWEEN TOKAI AND TOHOKU.
WHO'S UP?
OUR NEXT GAME IS THIS AFTER-NOON, RIGHT?
REALLY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU WITH BANDAGES STUCK ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

THEY'VE GOT GREAT SOCCER TEAMS, AND THEIR YOUTH CLUBS ARE AMAZING, TOO! LOTS OF FAMOUS PLAYERS GOT THEIR START IN TOKAI.
TOKAI IS LIKE THE MECCA OF JAPANESE SOCCER!
I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF TOHOKU.
IT'S GOTTA BE TOKAI!

TOKAI IS THE NUMBER ONE TEAM IN BOTH INDIVIDUAL ABILITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR WEAKNESS, EITHER.

HEY, SEIJI AND KAZUMA. YOU GUYS KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN I DO. YOU WERE WITH THEM AT NATIONALS.
OH, YEAH.

ESPECIALLY KEISUKE YAMAGUCHI, THE MID-FIELDER FROM JUBILO YOUTH...
CHIHIRO ODA, THE CENTER BACK FROM THE SAME TEAM...
...AND HEIMA YOKOYAMA, FROM S-PULSE YOUTH, WHO PLAYS FORWARD. THESE ARE THE GUYS TO LOOK OUT FOR.

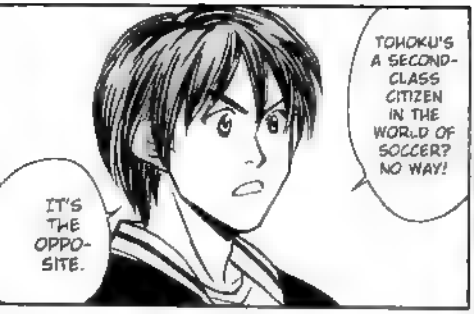
SO-AND-SO, FROM TEAM WHEREVER? WHO CARES?!
WE'VE BEEN TRAINING JUST AS HARD AS ANYONE ELSE. WE'LL TAKE ON WHOEVER WANTS TO STEP UP!
YOU SAID IT, TAKASHI!

EVERY-ONE, LISTEN UP.
COMING, COACH.
FWIP
DANG IT! GET ME OFF...
...THE BENCH!
RIGHT NOW, ALL I WANT IS A CHANCE TO GET OUT THERE!
SERIOUSLY?

TOKAI LOST TO TOHOKU?
KEI-SUKE.
TOKAI
WHAT?
YOU, TOO?
I GUESS I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY YOU SORRY.
I REALLY HOPED WE COULD SETTLE THE SCORE THIS TIME, BUT
SUGA ...

TOHOKU SELECT BEAT US.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HE'S FROM AFRICA. EVERYONE KNOWS AFRICANS HAVE A BIG PHYSICAL ADVANTAGE
I KNOW... IS IT REALLY FAIR?
IT'S PRETTY MUCH CHEATING, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHO'S AFRICAN?

I'M JAPANESE!
HE'S THE ONE WHO BEAT US SINGLE-HANDEDLY.


TOHOKU'S A SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN IN THE WORLD OF SOCCER? NO WAY!
IT'S THE OPPO-SITE.

MY TEAM IS LOADED WITH GUYS WHO KNOW THEIR SKILLS BACKWARD AND FORWARD.
BUT THIS TIME, THEY TAUGHT US A LESSON.
KANTO

RAW PHYSICAL POWER WILL OVERCOME MERE SKILL TRAINING EVERY TIME.

WAS IT BECAUSE WE UNDER-ESTIMATED THEM?
AND THEN PANICKED WHEN THINGS WENT DIFFERENTLY THAN WE EXPECTED?
WE LOST FOR A LOT OF DIFFERENT REASONS.
BUT WHEN IT BOILS DOWN TO IT, HE'S THE GUY WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR DOWNFALL

THE SUPER-SPEEDY LEFT AND RIGHT WINGERS OF TOHOKU!
ESPECIALLY KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT LEFT FIELDER!
HE'S LIKE...

BLACK LIGHTNING!

OH MAN! I AM SO PUMPED!
THE DRAMA IS ABOUT TO HIT THE FIELD!
TWO DARK-HORSE TEAMS MEETING HEAD TO HEAD!
IT'S TOHOKU BLACK LIGHTNING VERSUS THE HOME-BOYS FROM TOKYO!
BLACK LIGHTNING IS OK, I GUESS
BUT HOW IS TOKYO "HOME BOYS"?

BRILLIANT!

I AM JAPANESE.
TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID!

WHISTLE!

# STAGE.179

## A Lie He Hopes Will Come True
## (GO ON TOGETHER)

GULP
UH..
WHAT THE ...?

GLARE!

A-HAH.
THERE YOU ARE.
HE'S SCARY!

TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID!
I AM JAPANESE.

OH, HEY YŪDAI!
KO-TARŌ!
WHOAooo
SORRY, YŪDAI. I'M SORRY.
WE GOT A STRATEGY MEETING, DON'TCHA KNOW?
WHY'RE YOU OUT HERE SHOOTIN' THE BREEZE?
TWITCH
HE'S GOT A TOTALLY HICK ACCENT.
DID YOU HEAR THAT GUY?
KIND OF A MEAT-HEAD
WHEW!
I GUESS HE'S ALL BARK AND NO BITE!

WHY DON'T YOU SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU CAN DO?
KOTARŌ, THEY'RE YANKIN' OUR CHAIN BACK THERE.


FSNK

FWSH
SMAP
HUH?

THWAP
THUP
FLICK
ZOOP
?!
FLIP

WHAT THE HECK ?!
HE'S LIFTING WITH SHŌGI PIECES ?!
THAT'S AMAZING ...
...BUT IT'S ALSO TOTALLY CREEPING ME OUT!
北
北信

SNAP
ZWING

PAP THW
OW!
JAP
MY HEAD ...
IT HURTS!
TOKAI LOST TO TOHOKU ?!
YOU'RE SMALL FRY, LIKE THOSE PAWNS.
BEAT IT.

HM!
THEY WERE HERE A MINUTE AGO
HUH?
WHERE ARE SHŌ AND TEPPEI?
COACH LEWIS SAW THE GAME.
WE SHOULD GO OVER OUR STRATEGY WITH HIM BEFORE WE PLAY.
TEPPEI!
...
LET'S GO BACK.
COACH HAS SOMETHING TO TELL US. SHE ASKED EVERYONE TO COME MEET UP.
SHŌ.

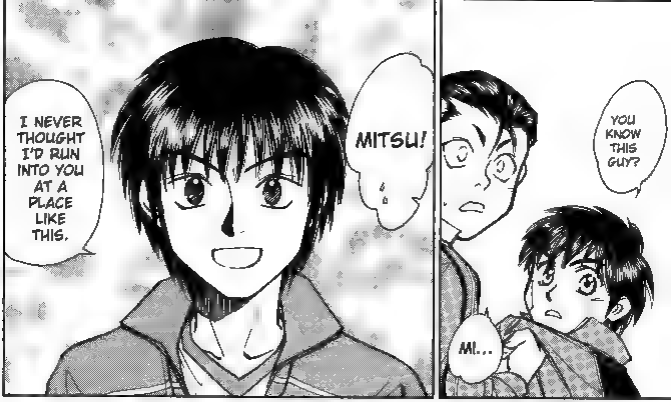
LEAVE ME ALONE!
YOU'RE JUST MAKING IT WORSE.
YANK
COME ON LET'S GO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHETHER I'M THERE OR NOT.
YOU GO BACK.
!
YOU WERE JUST A SUB LIKE ME, AT FIRST.
TEPPEI ...
I'M TRYING MY HARDEST.
BUT I'M STUCK IN THE SAME OLD PLACE.
BUT IT'S JUST NOT WORKING OUT
AND NOW YOU'RE MORE LIKE A REGULAR THAN A SUBSTITUTE.
BUT YOU IMPROVED QUICKLY AND GOT TO PLAY.

I'M GONNA QUIT SOCCER!
TEPPEI
IT'S THAT GUY...
YOU'LL BE FINE, SHŌ-- YOU'RE TALENTED.
I'M NOT GOOD.
I GUESS I JUST DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
UH...

WHAT'S TALENT ANY-WAY?
WHAT?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE NO GOOD?
I'M JUST SURROUNDED BY A LOT OF SKILLFUL PLAYERS.
I DON'T WANT THEM TO BEAT ME. I WANT TO CATCH UP WITH THEM.
I NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS TALENTED.
IF YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED YOU'RE NO GOOD, YOU'LL NEVER GET ANY BETTER! YOU'RE SELLING YOURSELF SHORT!
I REALLY WANT TO BECOME A BETTER PLAYER! THAT'S ALWAYS ON MY MIND!

SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
YOU SAID IT WAS THE BEST THING YOU HAD.
YOU SAID YOU LOVED SOCCER.
HEY, TEPPEI?
WOW, YOU HAVE RED HIGHLIGHTS IN YOUR HAIR!
I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU.

...I'M WITH THE SOCCER CLUB.
BECAUSE...
SEE? I TOLD YOU I'M FASTER.
AND I LOST.
AAGH!
MY RACE!
SLUMP
SO I THOUGHT I'D BEAT HIM AT HIS FAVORITE SPORT... SOCCER.
I TRIED TO RECRUIT HIM TO THE TRACK TEAM, BUT HE WOULDN'T JOIN.
HIS FATHER GOT RELOCATED.
GOOD LUCK, LITTLE IRON FOOT.
SEE YA.
BUT...
BEFORE I WAS GOOD ENOUGH, THAT JERK SLIPPED AWAY.
SO YOU JOINED THE SOCCER TEAM?
HOW-EVER, YOU KNOW...
WE'LL SETTLE THIS MATCHUP IN TRACK!
THE BOY WHO GOT YOU STARTED PLAYING SOCCER...
YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO MOVED AWAY?
I FOUND OUT WHO HE WAS RIGHT AWAY HE WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT IN THE SAME GRADE.
OH!
AH!
BOINK
MITSU? HE'S MITSU-HIRO?


I NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO YOU AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
MITSU!
YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
MI...

I'M BACK IN THE SOCCER CLUB.
FIGURES
SO I THOUGHT I'D WANT HIM AT MY FAVORITE SPORT. RIGHT?
THERE IS NOTHING ELSE TO THE TOKAI TEAM BUT AN ELEVEN.
HE NEVER GOT TRANSFER.
BEFORE WAS GOOD ENOUGH, RIGHT JOHN. CLIPPED AWAY
WE WERE TOO YOUNG.
HEY, WHERE DID YOU GO?
THE BOY WHO GOT YOU STARTED PLAYING SOCCER...
YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO MOVED AWAY?
MITSU? HE'S MITSUHIRO?

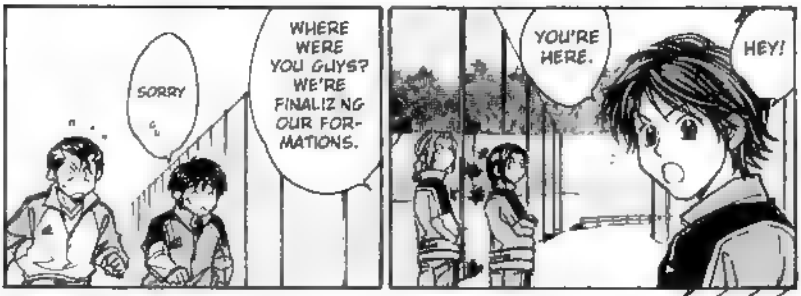
SO YOU'RE WITH TOKAI, MITSU?
WE'LL BE PLAYING AGAINST YOUR TEAM NEXT.
I'M EXCITED TO PLAY WITH YOU AGAIN. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER, TEPPEI? I'M NUMBER SEVEN, JUST LIKE LUIS FIGO.
TOKAI, THE FAVORITE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP, LOST TO TOHOKU?
TOHOKU
USE YOUR EYEBALLS, DUDE.
HUH?!
UH-OHooo
THUMPA
WAIT, ARE YOU A SUB?
NO WAY, A SUBSTITUTE?
WHERE'S YOUR UNIFORM? YOU'RE NOT WEARING IT?
I... I...
SNAP
RIGHT, TEPPEI?
PAT
IN THAT CASE, I WIN AGAIN! ♡
GRIN
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, YOU BLOCKHEAD!
SHUT UP!

WOW, DID I REALLY JUST SAY THAT?!
I'M THE SECRET WEAPON OF TOKYO SELECT!
IRON-KICK TEPPEI, THE SPEEDING-BULLET WING, THAT'S ME!
WE SAVE THE BIG GUNS FOR LAST... GOT IT?!
YOU BETTER WATCH OUT.
YEAH, OUR WING IS HOT STUFF.
SHŌ.
IS THAT TRUE?
SPIN
JOLT

SEE YA!
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE AN EXCITING GAME.
HUH.
SLUMP
WHEW!
. . FOR PLAYING ALONG WITH MY LIE.
THANKS ...
IT WASN'T A LIE.

AND, EVEN IF IT WAS, IF YOU MAKE IT COME TRUE, THEN IT WON'T BE A LIE ANY-MORE.
LET'S DO OUR BEST, OK?
I GUESS ...
adidas


HEY!
YOU'RE HERE.
WHERE WERE YOU GUYS? WE'RE FINALIZ NG OUR FOR-MATIONS.
SORRY

KANSAI
!!
SMILE
TEPPEI,
LET'S BEAT TOHOKU TOGETHER!

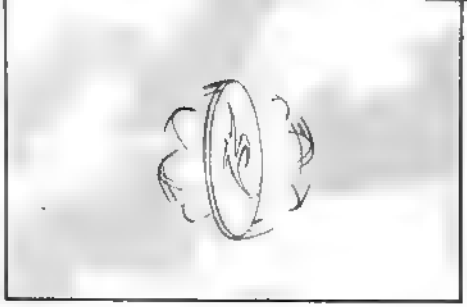
# WHISTLE!

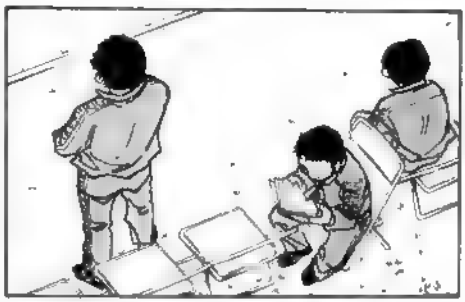
Kansai vs. Shikoku
IT'S THE SECOND ROUND OF THE INTER-REGIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPION-SHIPS.
EIGHT TEAMS WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY BEGIN GAMES AT FOUR LOCATIONS.
Hokushinetsu vs. Chugoku
BUT IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT ALL EYES WILL BE ON...
Hokkaido vs. Kyushu
...THE TEAMS RESPONSIBLE FOR TWO SURPRISING UPSETS, KNOCKING OUT KANTO AND TOKAI, WHO WERE BOTH HEAVILY FAVORED FOR THE TOP FOUR!
STAGE.180
The Match Against Tohoku Select Begins

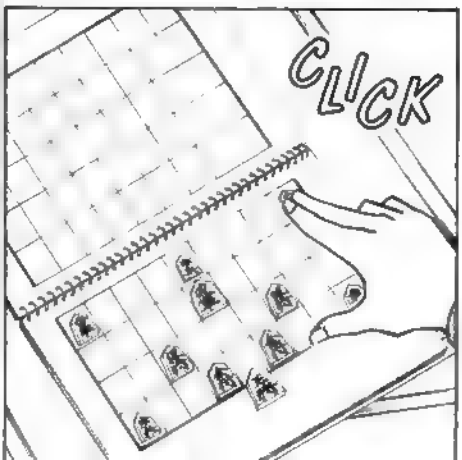
TOHOKU SELECT !!
TOKYO SELECT VS.
STAGE.180
The Match Against Tohoku Select Begins
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT KIND OF GAME THIS IS GOING TO BE!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE...
THE WINNER OF THIS GAME IS GOING TO BECOME THE EYE OF THE STORM IN THIS CHAMPION-SHIP!
TOHOKU BEAT TOKAI, BUT I WONDER HOW STRONG THEY ACTUALLY ARE ON THE FIELD.

TOHOKU
HEY, WE'RE TOUGH! WE BEAT KANTO, RIGHT?
IT CAN'T BE FAIR FOR SOMEONE THAT SIZE TO PLAY AGAINST JUNIOR HIGH KIDS LIKE US.
THAT MUST BE THE GUY EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT
...BUT I'LL PUT A LOCK ON HIM, ANYWAY!
HIS ATHLETIC ABILITY MAY BE GREAT...

THERE.






CLICK

TOKYO IS USING 4-5-1...
ALSO KNOWN AS THE "FOUR BACK" FORMATION.
THEY'VE SWITCHED FROM THREE BACK TO FOUR BACK, WHICH MEANS THEY'RE PREPARING TO DEFEND AGAINST OUR WING ATTACKS.

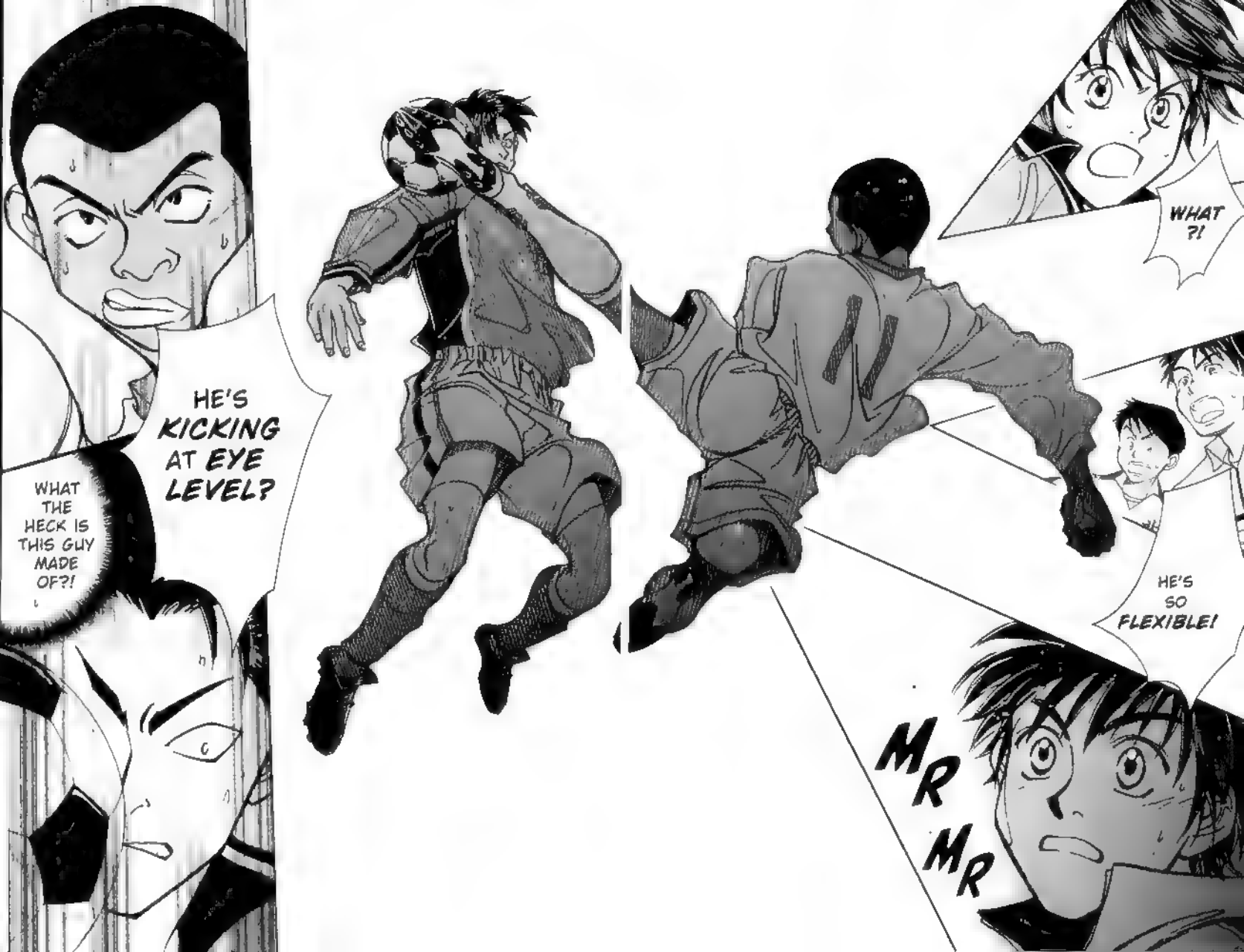
BA
P
YEP.
THAT'S WISHFUL THINKING
WE'LL TAKE DOWN BOTH OF TOHOKU'S WINGS!
BRING IT ON!
STILL BACK PASSING?
BAP
WHAM

WHOOOSH
ACK!
THE LEFT WING IS RUNNING ?!
HE'S FAST!
IT'S A MAJOR SIDE CHANGE!
TOHOKU

SHOOM
POW
THE INSTANT HIS PATH WAS BLOCKED, HE MADE ANOTHER SIDE CHANGE!
THAT'S FAST!
NUMBER ELEVEN IS ALREADY THERE!

ZWOO
SH
BUT WAIT!
ANTI-CIPATING THE MANEUVER, NUMBER FOUR BLOCKS THE PASS!
I KNEW IT! I GOT HIM!

HE GOT AROUND ME WITH A RECEIVE-AND-MOVE. BUT HE SENT IT TOO HIGH! WE CAN CLEAR IT!
IT'S HIGH!
I CAN CLEAR IT WITH A HEADER!
HE DODGED TSU-BASA?!
GASP
HUH?
BWOOP
TH UP


HE'S KICKING AT EYE LEVEL?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUY MADE OF?!
WHAT?!
HE'S SO FLEXIBLE!
MRMR

FOUL! RECK-LESS ACTION.
THE GOAL IS INVALID.
FOOM
EEEEE
TWEEE
AW, MAN! I JUST HAD TO USE THE LEG.

INCREDIBLE... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE IT!
WILL WE BE ABLE TO BEAT THEM?
BRRR
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
GARMAN
TOHOKU
I'LL MAKE IT NEXT TIME!

WHISTLE!

WE'RE JUST GETTIN' STARTED.
THAT GUY'S NOT A PAWN.
HE IS...
CLICK
...A GOLD GENERAL, THE KEY TO THEIR DEFENSE.
KO-TARŌ! MITSU-HIRO!
BREAK TOKYO'S NUMBER FOUR!

# STAGE.181 Target: Tsubasa

THE PASS MAKES IT TO THE FRONT LINE.
BA
M
TOKYO'S MAKING THEIR MOVE!
!
GARMAN
TOHOKU
FWOOM
BUT NUMBER THREE, THE EXTRA-LARGE CENTER BACK, IS IN THE WAY!

IF YOU CAN!
WHOOSH
WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW ME, THEN ..
GOTCHA!
FOOM
KA-ZUMA!
NUMBER TWENTY MAKES THE FEINT!

HE'S THE DEFENSIVE VERSION OF A SHADOW ATTACKER.
THAT GUY'S SNEAKY
NUMBER TWO INTER-CEPTS!
HE WAS LYING IN WAIT BEHIND THE GIANT CENTER BACK!
POW
THOCK
MI-TSU!
BLOCK IT!
IT'S COMING OVER!
GAH!

ROKU-SUKE!
I GOT IT!
IT'S A FIFTY-FIFTY BALL!
THE DEFENDER AND LEFT WING ARE BOTH GOING FOR IT!
IT'S AN ALL-OUT RACE!
TO-HOKU'S WING IS REALLY FAST!
HE'S CLOSING THE GAP!

TUP
HE STOPPED IT RIGHT AT THE LINE...
SO FAST!
NUMBER SEVEN WINS THE BALL...
I FOILED THEIR PLAN.
I WON!
GRIP
URK!
BRRR!
HAAK
AND IMMEDIATELY CENTERS!
BOOM
MI-TSU!

THUD
?!
WHAT IS THIS ?!
WHAT ?!

BOOM
HE KICKED THE BALL!

THE KEEPER JUMPED SIDEWAYS AND KNOCKED IT AWAY!
KHAAAN
THUMP
THE FORWARD IS THERE FOR THE REBOUND
ZIP
SAVE!

TSU-BASA!
THAT OVERHEAD KICK--IT'S LIKE IT WAS SHOT FROM A CANNON!
DID YOU SEE THAT?!
SMIRK
...
PAT PAT
11

TSU-
BASA,
NO!
WHUMP
...
I WAS
JUST
MESSING
AROUND,
MASAKI.
JUST
KID-
DING.

THAT JERK! I WON'T FORGIVE HIM FOR THAT!
NUMBER ELEVEN CUTS RIGHT INSIDE!
FWOOM
KICK FEINT!

WHUP.
BOING
BAM
YES!
NUMBER FOUR CLEARS IT!

TCH!
HE'S AT THE BOILING POINT.
TSU-BASA!
NUMBER FOUR TOOK THE BAIT.
WE GOTCHA NOW!
BUT WAIT...
TOHOKU'S NUMBER NINE IS RIGHT BEHIND HIM!

WH
AM
MA-
SAKI!
CLICK

NO!
TSU-
BASA!

# WHISTLE!

STAGE.182 Tsubasa Shot Down in the Dark
PRO-MOTED PAWN.
NOW THAT KOTARŌ IS IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP, HE CAN MOVE FREELY.
SNAP
CHECK-MATE!
NO ...

STAGE.182
Tsubasa Shot Down in the Dark

TOHOKU MADE THE FIRST GOAL!
G...
GOAL!!
TOHOKU
TOHOKU
DAAAAZE

HE'S... GOOD. WAY TOO GOOD.
WHAT KIND OF A MOVE WAS THAT?
IT'S NOT A SOCCER MOVE. I MEAN, IS THAT EVEN LEGAL?

WHAT?
THERE IS.
IS THERE ANY WAY TO BEAT SOMEONE WITH MOVES LIKE THAT?
SCRITCH SCRITCH
INSTEAD OF BLACK LIGHTNING, MAYBE I SHOULD CALL HIM THE BLACK CYCLONE!

SLAM
BUT YOU CAN'T WIN WITH JUST ATHLETICS. SOCCER ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
IT'S TRUE THAT ATHLETIC ABILITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MERE SKILLS
HEY
BA-BUMP
SA-KAKI! ♡

SHAAAA
SHAAAA
DOOM
I MOMENTARILY FORGOT HE WAS IN THE OPEN SPACE THAT WAS WHEN I MESSED UP
HE GOT ME!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M BEATEN YET.
COME ON, IT'S NOT LIKE WE LOST. I WAS JUST OVERCONFIDENT.
TSU-BASA.
YEAH, YEAH.
YOU SHOULD RELY ON YOUR TEAM-MATES--THEY CAN HELP YOU OUT.
LET'S CHANGE OUR FRAME OF MIND

BUT HOW COULD TSUBASA BLOW HIS COOL TO THE POINT OF LOSING TRACK OF THE GAME?
IT'S TRUE, NUMBER ELEVEN IS REALLY ATHLETIC ...
THAT'S NOT LIKE TSU-BASA.
...WHAT KIND OF DARKNESS I'M IN.
PEOPLE WHO ARE NATURALLY GIFTED CAN'T UNDER-STAND...
I THINK I CAN UNDER-STAND WHY.
TSUBASA, LOSING HIS COOL.
OH!
NOW IT'S TOHOKU'S OFFENSE!
ZIP
BAM
TOKYO'S OFFENSE-- WHOA, INTER-CEPTED!
SHOOM

NUMBER FOUR CUTS IN AND NUMBER ELEVEN TRIPS!
THE SPACE IS OPEN!
THERE'S NO WHISTLE! HE KEEPS GOING!
IT'S A GO!
DASH

HOOSH
THWIP
TSU-BASA!
TO ME!
AH!
HE'S FACING THE KEEPER ONE-ON-ONE!
HE GOT PAST THE DEFENDER BY USING THE FORWARD AS A DECOY.

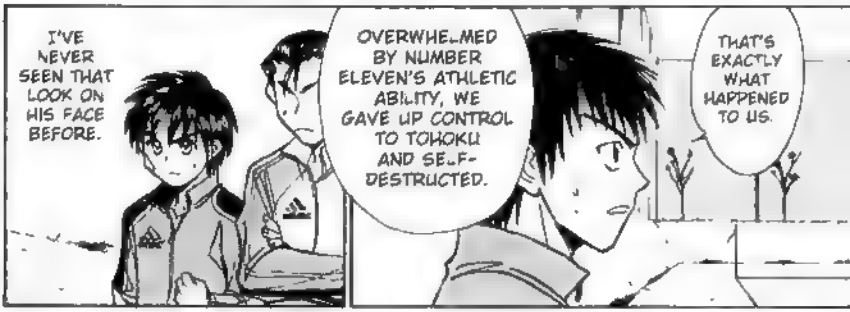
SLIDING TACKLE!
NO! NUMBER ELEVEN IS CATCHING UP!
ZU
ZAT
WH
AM

TSUBASA, YOU OKAY?
FOUL! PENALTY KICK!
WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
THIS WILL EVEN THE SCORE.
LIMP
TSU-BASA... THAT BOY...

WHA
CK!
ARG!
SHOCK
WAS HE OVER-THINKING IT? IT GOT AWAY FROM HIM.
THE KICK'S NO GOOD!
WHAT?!
DON'T, KAZUMA.
HEY MAN, E-SHI SAID HE WAS SORRY, OKAY?
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN SCORE WHEN IT'S WIDE OPEN, IT ONLY MAKES THINGS HARDER FOR THE REST OF US.
NO WORRIES
SORRY
FWIP
THEY'RE ARGUING.
CAPTAIN
TOHOKU!
77
9

I HOPE THEY CAN SHAKE IT OFF QUICKLY
HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A PENALTY KICK CAN BE A HUGE ADVANTAGE, BUT IT'S NEVER A SURE THING.
WE'RE GOLDEN.
THEY MISSED THAT KICK, SO WE'VE GOT CONTROL OF THE GAME.
WHEN SPIRITS ARE DOWN...
...IT DULLS YOUR REFLEXES. SLUGGISH MOVES, IN TURN, LOWER THE TEAM'S SPIRITS EVEN FURTHER.
IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE.
GETTING BACK INTO YOUR RHYTHM IS DIFFICULT, EVEN FOR THE PROS.

ANY MENTAL DISTURBANCE HAS A DIRECT EFFECT ON THE WAY YOU PLAY.
SOCCER IS A MIND GAME.


I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE BEFORE.
OVERWHELMED BY NUMBER ELEVEN'S ATHLETIC ABILITY, WE GAVE UP CONTROL TO TOHOKU AND SELF-DESTRUCTED.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO US.

I REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM ANY LESS OF AN ATHLETE THAN HIM!
TSUBASA USED TO LAUGH OFF ANY SITUATION.
BUT NOW, HE'S FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO KEEP HIMSELF FROM BEING DROWNED BY THE DARKNESS

IF I DID ...
BOTH WINGS ARE CUTTING INTO THE CENTER!
THEY SWITCHED SIDES!

THE MARKS ARE PILING UP!
BAM
THROUGH BALL!
TWO DEFENDERS ARE STUCK FACE TO FACE!
IT'S BLOCKED BY THE DEFENDER!
WHIP

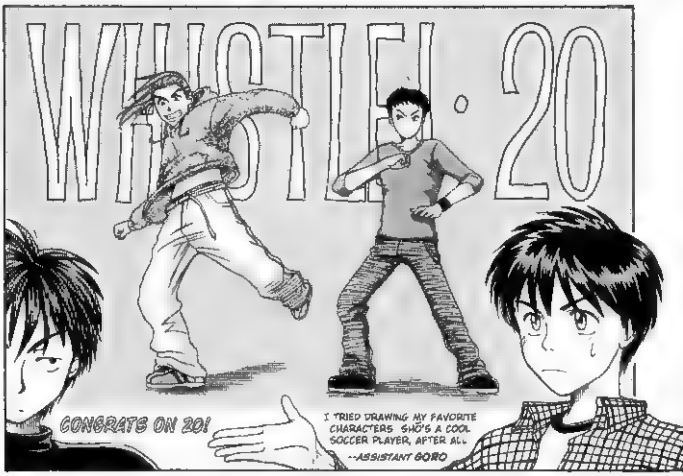
TOHOKU IS GIVEN A FREE KICK IN A PRIME LOCATION WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!
THAT'S A FOUL!
AH...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY SOCCER ANYMORE.
IF I ACKNOWLEDGE IT...
COACH ...
COACH!
...
COACH, LET'S CHANGE OUT TSUBASA.
TSUBASA HAS A SMALL BUILD. CONTROLLING NUMBER ELEVEN IS TOO MUCH FOR HIM. WE SHOULD PULL HIM OUT WHILE THE DAMAGE IS STILL MINIMAL.

IF HE GIVES UP NOW, HE'LL HAVE NO FUTURE!
A SMALL BOY LIKE TSUBASA WILL HIT THIS WALL SOONER OR LATER.
NO! IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO BAIL HIM OUT.
WHA?
HE WON'T!
IT'S TOO RISKY. HE COULD BE CRUSHED BY THIS EXPERIENCE.
IF HE'S NOT TESTED NOW, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GROW.
...ISN'T THE KIND OF GUY WHO WOULD LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS DESTROY HIM!
TSUBASA ...

SHŌ.
COACH!
LINEUP CHANGE!
SHŌ'S IN FOR TAKI!
WHAT?
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
HIS BODY MAY BE SMALL, BUT THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO WIN...
...AS LONG AS HE'S NOT DEFEATED IN HIS HEART!

20 GO ON TOGETHER (The End)

# 20th Volume Anniversary Address



SHOOP SHOOP
CALV CALV
AT THE START OF THE SERIES...
SHE'S PROBABLY HUNGRY.
IT LOOKS LIKE RAINING IS BE A BAD MOOD
MEANWHILE, HOW DO HIGUCHI SENSEI GROW?
AND NOW...
KREE
CALV CALV
SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPY.
IS SENSEI ANGRY?
IN HERSELF AND SLEEP DEPRIVATION MAKE HER CRANKY
IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA, THE AUTHOR HASN'T SHOWN ANY GROWTH.
BY THE WAY, WHEN DO I GET TO APPEAR AGAIN?
LET'S WORK HARD TOGETHER!
BY HARD, YOU MEAN "I"
I WAS TOTALLY ENGROSSED IN THE SERIES EARLY ON. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD RUN FOR THIS LONG... BUT WE'RE STILL GOING!
I GREW TWO CM.
TEENY SHO...
VOLUME 20
Congratulations!!
THIS WOULD LOOK GREAT!
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE COULD GROW WITH SHO, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT.
KEPT TRAINING ON HIS OWN.
AND MADE MANY FRIENDS.
THERE ARE SO MANY CHARACTERS I LIKE, I CAN'T DRAW THEM ALL.
PERSONALLY, THESE ARE MY FAVES

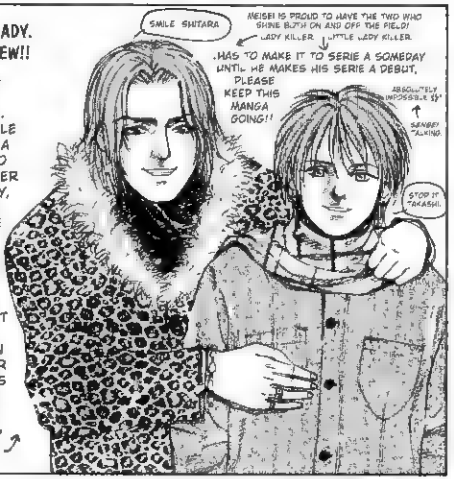
THANKS EVERYONE! ♡ HIGUCHI

# From ★ Assistants

Akira Saionji
LOVELY COACH AKIRA. DURING TRAINING SHE DOODLES ON HER CLIPBOARD
Yūichirō Sakuraba
HE APPEARS OFTEN BECAUSE ASSISTANT F HAS A CRUSH ON HIM. HE READS "HIKARU NO GO."
Shigeru Mamiya
WHEN IT COMES TO COMIC RELIEF SHIGE SAN ALWAYS GETS THE LAUGHS. THAT'S WHY HE GETS TO APPEAR A LOT
Shigeki Satō
HE'S THE STRAIGHT MAN IN A COMEDY DUO. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM LATELY. I WONDER IF HIS MANGA COMIC IS STILL ACTIVE
TOTALLY UNWANTED & SPECIAL GIFT!
HUSTLE!
MAIN CHARACTER NAME DIRECTORY.
CONGRATS ON VOLUME 20!!
BY ASSISTANT F. JAGUAR
Takashi Narumi
THE RUMOR IS, HE HAS A BIGGER NOSE IN REAL LIFE. SOME ITALIAN BLOOD FLOWS IN HIM.
Shō Kazamatsuri
THE HERO. IT IS RUMORED THAT UNDER HIS SMILING FACE HE'S GOT A DARK SIDE BUT REALLY HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY. HE'D EVEN PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO SAVE AN ANT
Obanazawa ~ 200X
HP 500 • MP 280
FORMER COACH. WHO WAS HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS. CURRENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN. THE COLOR OF HIS TENTACLES ARE BLUE
Oyassan
HE WEARS THIS WEIRD SWEATER SHŌ GAVE HIM. DOES HE REALLY LIKE IT?

## IT'S VOLUME 20 ALREADY. NOW FAST THE TIME FLEW!!

THE ROAD WE TOOK TO COME THIS FAR WAS EXTRAORDINARILY HARD. INDEED, IT'S AS INCREDIBLE AS MAKING YOUR SERIE A DEBUT AND GOING ON TO PLAY A FULL SEASON AFTER ONLY A YEAR. SERIOUSLY, I THINK IT'S AWESOME! BY THE WAY, WHEN THE SERIES JUST STARTED, *SENSEI* USED TO CALL BAGGIO "PACCIO." IT SOUNDED SO MUCH LIKE "CARPACCIO" THAT I USED TO TELL HER NOT TO CALL HIM PACCIO. BUT NOW, *SENSEI* EVEN HAS MALDINI AMONG HER DVD COLLECTIONS AND IS A SOCCER SUPER-FAN! I MEAN, *SENSEI*, THE ITALIAN MADE IN JAPAN, A.K.A., TAKASHI...


SMILE SHITARA
NEISHI IS PROUD TO HAVE THE TWO WHO SHINE BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD!
LADY KILLER
LITTLE LADY KILLER
HAS TO MAKE IT TO SERIE A SOMEDAY UNTIL HE MAKES HIS SERIE A DEBUT. PLEASE KEEP THIS MANGA GOING!!
ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE !!*
*ENGLISH TALKING.
STOP IT TAKASHI.



BY ASSISTANT N.

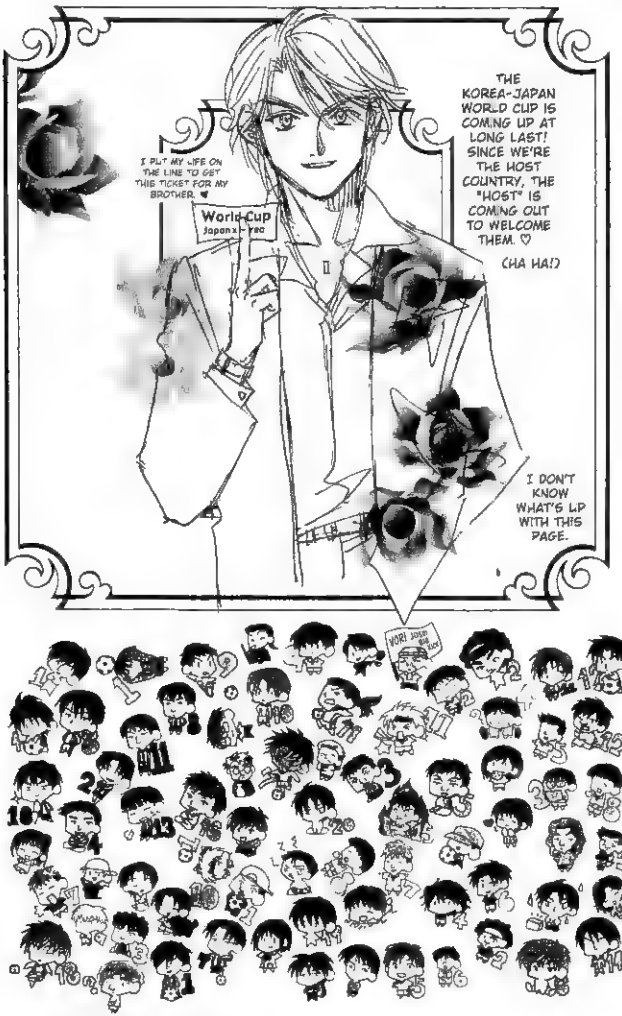

I PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE TO GET THIS TICKET FOR MY BROTHER. ♥
World Cup
Japan x - rao
THE KOREA-JAPAN WORLD CUP IS COMING UP AT LONG LAST! SINCE WE'RE THE HOST COUNTRY, THE "HOST" IS COMING OUT TO WELCOME THEM. ♡
CHA HA!)
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PAGE.

ILLUSTRATION / LIN SAKURA

# DAISUKE NOTES

## TOSHIKI SUGAMA

| PERSONAL DATA | |
|---|---|
| BIRTHDAY | AUG 27, 1983 |
| SIZE | 6' 3" 174 lbs |
| BLOOD TYPE | B |
| FAVORITE FOOD | STAMINA BOWL |
| DISLIKES | BOILED QUAIL EGGS |
| HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS | MAKING HATS AND SEWING |

## MITSUHIRO HINASE

| PERSONAL DATA | |
|---|---|
| BIRTHDAY | DEC 14 1984 |
| SIZE | 5' 4" 115 lbs |
| BLOOD TYPE | A |
| FAVORITE FOOD | UDON NOODLES |
| DISLIKES | VEGETABLES |
| HOBBY AND SPECIAL SKILLS | READING BOOKS AND RUNNING |

# Next in Whistle!

## TRY ON MY DREAMS

As the second half starts, Tohoku continues to control the game. But both teams are surprised when Shô's irrepressible force of will starts to sway the game in Tokyo Select's favor. When Shô thwarts Kotarô's efforts, the Tohoku star begins to reveal his weaknesses. But at the same time, Tsubasa begins to lose his cool for being shown up by a mere substitute. With the game on the line, who will crack first—Kotarô, or Tsubasa?

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Story & Art by

**Daisuke Higuchi**

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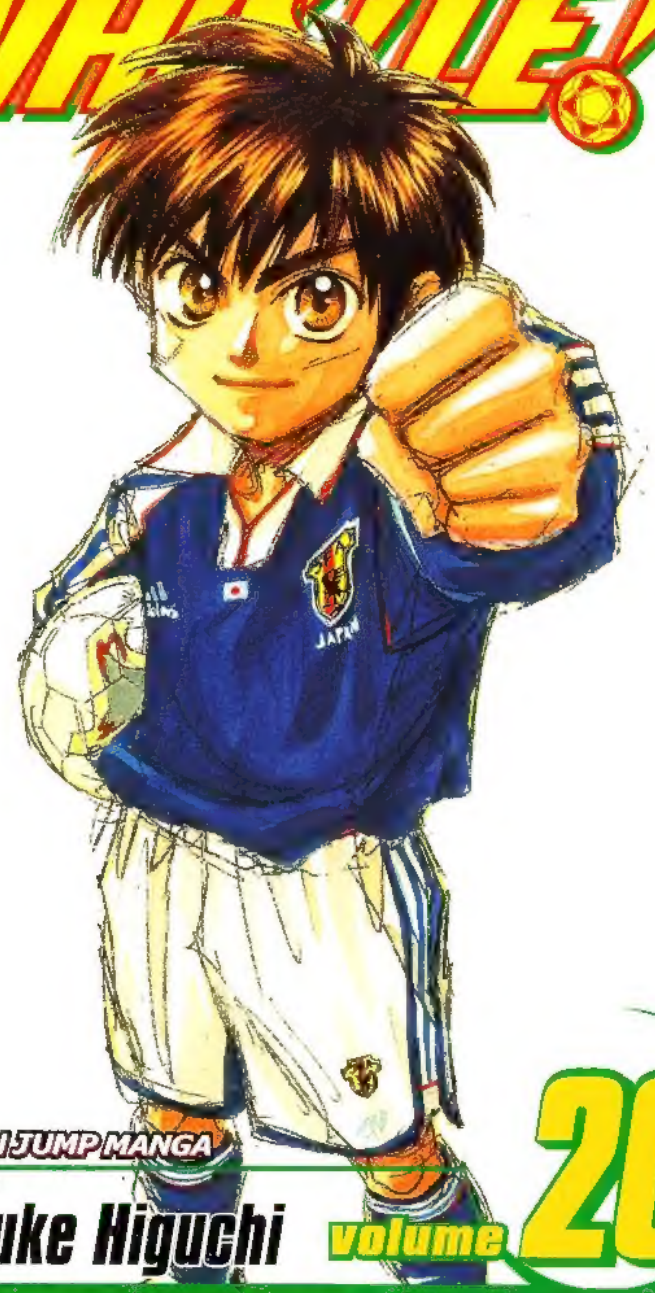

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